## BEDFORD LAUNCHES VISUAL BUDGET

By: Victor Garofalo, Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector

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The Town of Bedford is excited to announce the launch of an online budget review tool called "Bedford Visual Budget". The public can now view all Town expenses, revenues and fund balances going back to Fiscal Year 2006, right from our website. Visual Budget is now up and running and available for public view 24/7. This Visual Budget can be found by logging onto the Town website at: <a href="www.bedfordma.gov">www.bedfordma.gov</a>, and clicking on the Budget and Financial tab and selecting the Bedford Visual Budget. Within the Budget and Financial tab, there are several other financial documents that can be viewed and downloaded from this page.

Citizens can log into Visual Budget, enter their annual property tax amount, and then see exactly where each dollar of their tax money is spent. Graphics will display the various departments' and elected boards' budgets going back to Fiscal Year 2006. The Visual Budget tool also contains tabs for information on Funds and Revenues, and other historical financial data.

The Visual Budget is a simple, user-friendly, open-source website that allows anyone to get a quick snapshot glance at how we are carefully and strategically investing public tax dollars to improve our Town.

Bedford's fiscal planning and transparencies have resulted in affirmation of the Town's "AAA" bond rating and its regular receipt of recognitions and awards from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Questions about the new Visual Budget tool can be directed to Victor Garofalo, Finance Director Treasurer/Collector at 781-275-2218 or vgarofalo@bedfordma.gov.